Business: Californians filed 58,208 initial claims for jobless benefits last week, which is an increase of 34%. A16

THE ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER

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CORONAVIRUS

Movement restricted in state

PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A man has his temperature taken outside the emergency department at Placentia-Linda Hospital on Wednesday.

Traveling outside of home allowed for food and medical care and to get some exercise

By Donna Littlejohn and Bradley Bermont
Staff writers

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday ordered the state's 40 million residents to stay at home, restricting non-essential movements to control the spread of the coronavirus that threatens to overwhelm the state's medical system.

The order came mere moments after top officials from around Los Angeles County — Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, county Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek — stood together to issue similar orders. Half the state's population already had embraced such rules by the time Newsom addressed the state.

"This is a moment we need to make tough decisions," Newsom said. "We need to recognize reality."

People may still leave their homes for walks and exercise and for essential needs such as food and medical care. Restaurant meals can still be delivered to homes.

Newsom earlier in the day asked the president to deploy a U.S. Navy medical ship to help the state expand its medical capacity and warned that more than half of California's residents could

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Hospitals:
Medical workers fear they're not fully equipped for disease prevention

By Teri Sforza and Martin Wisckol
Staff writers

As anxiety over coronavirus rises, front-line medical workers fear for their own health and safety even as data suggests that hospitals — both locally and nationally — might not have enough beds to handle a surge in cases.

Some health-care workers in close contact with COVID-19 patients complain that they still lack full-scale protective equipment and that what's in stock is kept behind locked doors or otherwise guarded.

Others say the rooms of infected patients aren't always isolated or clearly marked, which can lead to unintentional exposure by workers who aren't on the direct medical team.

And still others are furious that every hospital staffer who interfaces with the public

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JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A health care worker interviews people at a drive-thru screening at St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group in Yorba Linda on Thursday.

INSIDE

A7: College seniors facing uncertain future.
A9: California's large numbers of people 60 or older dealing with pandemic.
A10: Early release and other precautions taken at jails.

Health:
Two coronavirus test centers open in OC but are limited in operations

By Ian Wheeler
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@iwhlr on Twitter

At least two health care providers in Orange County are taking steps to speed up testing for the virus that causes COVID-19, but that testing has been limited to members of those health systems and only when prescribed by a doctor.

So far, the Orange County drive-thru testing sites run by health care providers Kaiser Permanente and Providence St. Joseph Health are processing dozens of patients per day.

But that limited capacity soon is expected to be dwarfed by demand.

On Thursday, Gov. Gavin Newsom warned that the new coronavirus could infect more than half the population of California — an

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WASHINGTON

Travel advisory set; Trump promises treatments

President says he will hurry potential vaccines to market; Senate unveils stimulus plan

From news service reports

WASHINGTON » The U.S. fought on several fronts Thursday to stem the novel coronavirus tide as infections and deaths rose exponentially across the country and the world.

Among the moves:

- The State Department raised the warning level for travel outside of the country to its highest level, usually reserved for war zones.
- President Donald Trump heralded the slashing of red tape to hurry COVID-19 treatments to market while suggesting the U.S. could take a stake in a some companies that require a bailout.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell unveiled his $1 trillion rescue package featuring $1,200 and $2,400 payouts to individuals and families, but he received some pushback from fellow Republican senators.

Travel abroad

The State Department announced that Americans should not travel outside the country and that citizens abroad should either return home or stay in place as the coronavirus pandemic grows.

The department raised its global health advisory to Level 4, or "do not travel," which is the highest warning, usually reserved for nations that are war zones or facing serious disruptions such as political unrest or natural disasters.

The announcement is a recommendation, not a requirement. Millions of Americans are still overseas and many are likely to opt to remain in place.

"If you choose to travel internationally, your travel plans may be severely disrupted and you may be forced to remain outside of the United States for an indefinite time frame," the advisory said.

Some tourists or American citizens without long-term living

VIRUS » PAGE 11

SPORTS

STAFF FILE PHOTO

A FREE AGENT: The Rams released Todd Gurley, the running back with a massive contract and a history of being injured. The Rams made the move Thursday before roughly $10 million of his contract became fully guaranteed. The Rams also released linebacker Clay Mathews.

2 LAKERS HAVE COVID-19: As the number of coronavirus cases continue to rise across the country and the world on Thursday, the NBA has not been exempt. At least four teams reported positive COVID-19 test results for members of their organization, including two players on the Lakers.

EXPANDED COVERAGE IN SPORTS

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